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The situation in the Middle East

The situation in Afghanistan

International drug control

Measures to eliminate international terrorism

Letter dated 11 October 2013 from the Permanent Representative of Tajikistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the Bishkek Declaration of the heads of the member States of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), signed on 13 September 2013 in Bishkek by the Presidents of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the People's Republic of China, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Russian Federation, the Republic of Tajikistan and the Republic of Uzbekistan at the meeting of the SCO Council of Heads of State.

I should be grateful if you would arrange for this letter and its annex to be circulated as a document of the sixty-eighth session of the General Assembly under agenda items 35, 37, 109 and 110.

(*Signed*) Sirodjidin **Aslov**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 11 October 2013 from the Permanent Representative of Tajikistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Bishkek Declaration of the heads of the member States of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation

At the conclusion of the meeting of the Council of Heads of State, held in Bishkek on 13 September 2013, the heads of the member States of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (hereinafter referred to as "SCO" or "the Organisation") made the following statement.

Regarding the future development of the Organisation, the Heads of State reaffirm their commitment to coordinated action based on the principles and provisions of the Charter and other documents of the SCO. They note that the entry into force of the Treaty on Long-Term Good-Neighbourliness, Friendship and Cooperation between the member States of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation provided a solid legal basis for the creation of a lasting peace and shared prosperity in the SCO space.

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The member States note that international relations are currently in a phase of far-reaching transformation, with many more factors of uncertainty and instability. Global challenges and threats (terrorism, separatism and extremism, the spread of weapons of mass destruction, illegal drug trafficking, organized crime, cybercrime, development imbalances, food insecurity and climate change) now transcend frontiers and demand greater attention from the world community. Many regional and local conflicts remain unresolved.

The member States consistently advocate further reinforcement of the legal foundations of international relations, based on the generally recognized principles and norms of international law, and primarily the Charter of the United Nations, as well as of the international obligations of States, and respect for the right of their peoples independently to choose the path to their political, social and economic development.

The member States note that international and regional conflicts must be settled exclusively by peaceful political and diplomatic means in accordance with the principles of equality of rights, respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States, non-interference in the internal affairs of States and renunciation of the use or threat of use of force.

The member States favour further strengthening of the central coordinating role of the United Nations in international affairs to promote the maintenance of peace, security and stability, stimulate concerted, steady and constructive development and encourage broad and mutually beneficial international cooperation. They recognize the need to reform the United Nations in order to make its activities more results-oriented and enable it to respond in a more timely and effective manner to global challenges and threats.

The member States believe that, in order to achieve the broadest possible agreement on reform of the United Nations Security Council, the countries concerned must continue consultations to find a comprehensive approach to a solution which takes into account mutual interests and concerns and does not impose reform options that are not supported by the majority of States Members of the United Nations.

The member States will strive, while facing dynamic and fundamental changes in the world that affect their interests and relying on a high degree of mutual trust, to ensure security, stability, good-neighbourliness, friendship and mutually beneficial cooperation in the region.

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The member States are actively and purposefully combating international terrorism, separatism and extremism, transnational organized crime, illegal trafficking in drugs, psychotropic substances and their precursors, as well as weapons, ammunition and explosives, threats to information security and illegal migration, and favour further enhancement of the normative basis for cooperation in these areas.

The member States, emphasizing that these negative factors taken together pose a serious challenge to global and regional security, are firmly committed to continue work on the practical implementation of the Shanghai Convention on Combating Terrorism, Separatism and Extremism, the SCO Counter-terrorism Convention, the Programme of Cooperation among SCO member States in efforts to combat terrorism, separatism and extremism in 2013-2015, and the Agreement between the Governments of SCO member States on cooperation in the Field of International Information Security.

The member States believe that illegal trafficking in and non-medical use of drugs seriously undermine stability and security and the health and well-being of the population of States in the region. Steps must be taken to create an effective system for jointly tackling the drug problem and a reliable bulwark against illegal trafficking in drugs, psychotropic substances and their precursors and to prevent the spread of drug addiction. There should be active cooperation in this matter with other concerned States and with regional and international organizations and structures.

The member States express their willingness to promote practical implementation of the provisions of the Agreement between SCO member States on cooperation to combat illegal trafficking in drugs, psychotropic substances and their precursors, the Anti-drug Strategy of the SCO member States for 2011-2016 and the Programme of Action for its implementation.

The member States will work to build a peaceful, secure, just and open information space, based on the principles of respect for State sovereignty and non-interference in the internal affairs of other countries. They will combat the use of information and communication technology to undermine the political, economic and social security of member States and the propagation of the ideas of terrorism,

extremism and separatism on the Internet and will work for the formulation of universal rules, principles and norms for States' responsible conduct in cyberspace.

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The member States are in favour of the construction in Afghanistan of an independent, neutral, peaceful and prosperous State, free from terrorism and drug crime. National reconciliation must be Afghan-led and Afghan-executed, in order to allow the speediest achievement of peace and stability in this country. The global society must create the conditions for the speediest attainment of peace and the United Nations must play a central coordinating role in international efforts to achieve an Afghan settlement and assist in the reconstruction of Afghanistan.

The member States are deeply concerned about the situation in the Near East and North Africa, particularly in Syria, and hope for the achievement of peace, stability, prosperity and progress in this region without external interference, including use of force, not sanctioned by the United Nations Security Council.

The member States hope that the Syrians themselves will achieve a speedy end to the crisis in Syria with respect for the sovereignty of the Syrian Arab Republic, that the violence in this country will end and that a broad political dialogue will be launched between the authorities and the opposition without preconditions, on the basis of the Geneva communiqué of 30 June 2012. They support efforts to convene an international conference to lay the foundation for reconciliation and normalization in Syria and for assistance from the global community in this process. They strongly condemn any manifestation of terrorism and violence against the peaceful population, particularly on religious or nationalist grounds, and oppose illegal actions aimed at further militarization of the internal conflict in Syria.

The member States support the initiative to place Syrian chemical weapons under international control, and to require their subsequent destruction, and Syria's accession to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction.

The member States are concerned about the situation regarding Iran and its nuclear programme. They consider the threats of military force and unilateral sanctions by individual States against that country to be unacceptable. The trend towards a confrontational scenario is fraught with serious and unpredictable consequences both for the whole region and for international peace and security in general. There is no alternative to a peaceful resolution of this question.

The member States invite all countries to adopt a responsible approach and exercise restraint, avoiding statements — and, even more, actions — that further exacerbate the confrontation.

All the existing concerns can be allayed only by peaceful means using a phased and reciprocal approach. In this regard, it is important to maintain the momentum of the negotiating process generated at the meetings of the representatives of the "Sextet" of international mediators with Iran held in Almaty in February and April 2013 and to move towards a specific mutually acceptable understanding.

The member States believe that negotiations and consultations are the only effective way of preserving peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula and achieving its denuclearization. They appeal for prompt resumption of the six-party talks on the nuclear problem of the Korean Peninsula on the basis of the goals and principles of the Joint Statement by the "Sextet" of 19 September 2005.

The member States reiterate that the unilateral and unrestricted accumulation of anti-ballistic missiles by one State or group of States, in disregard of the interests of other countries, can undermine strategic stability and international security. Such problems must be resolved through political and diplomatic efforts by all concerned States. The member States are convinced that one's own security cannot be achieved at the expense of the security of others.

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The continuing instability of the global economy requires effective joint measures by the SCO member States in the area of economic cooperation, which is an important way of ensuring steady social and economic development and stability in the SCO space.

The member States attach great importance to practical application of the List of Measures for advancing projects within the Organisation between 2012 and 2016 and of the Plan of Measures for implementation of the Programme of multilateral trade and economic cooperation among SCO member States.

The heads of State noted the importance of the work done to study issues relating to the creation of an SCO Development Fund (Special Account) and of an SCO Development Bank and requested that efforts should continue to complete the study rapidly.

The heads of State are convinced of the need for speedier implementation of the projects for expansion of transport and communication facilities in the region, infrastructure development, creation of international multimodal logistics centres, trade and tourism, adoption of innovative and energy-saving technologies, including tapping the potential of observer States and dialogue partners. In this connection, the member States are determined to work together to create favourable conditions for the development of trade, economic and investment activity in the SCO space.

* * *

The member States continue to cooperate in the scientific, technical, cultural and humanitarian spheres and in the area of tourism, in order to further strengthen relations of long-term good-neighbourliness, friendship and cooperation, spiritual rapprochement and promotion of intercultural dialogue in the interest of the peoples living in the SCO space.

The member States intend also to further develop ties in the area of health care, including initiation of effective practical action to deal with the threat of particularly dangerous and other infectious diseases.

The member States stress the importance of improving and expanding capacity to deal with emergencies caused by natural disasters and technology-related catastrophes, as well as joint response to them.

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In addition, the member States will in future expand cooperation within the Organisation, raising it to a qualitatively new level and making the SCO space a region of lasting peace, friendship, prosperity and harmony.

In this connection, the Heads of State request the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of SCO member States to have a draft strategy prepared for the development of the Organisation between now and 2025 and to submit it for the consideration of the SCO Council of Heads of State in the usual manner.

The member States are open to dialogue with concerned States and international and regional structures on ways of ensuring security and stability and strengthening mutually beneficial, trade, economic, cultural and humanitarian ties in the region and in the world.

The President of the Republic of Kazakhstan	**N. A. Nazarbayev**
The President of the People's Republic of China	**Xi Jinping**
The President of the Kyrgyz Republic	**A. S. Atambayev**
The President of the Russian Federation	**V. V. Putin**
The President of the Republic of Tajikistan	**E. Rahmon**
The President of the Republic of Uzbekistan	**I. A. Karimov**

Bishkek, 13 September 2013